

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-6 and 8-13 are pending. Claims 1, 7 and 14-15 have been cancelled herein.

Claims 2, 4-6 and 8-12 have been amended herein.

Applicant's undersigned representative thanks Examiner Soohoo for the courtesies extended during the personal interview of September 13, 2007 and the telephone interview of October 2, 2007. Applicants separate record of the substance of the interviews is incorporated in the remarks below.

Support for the amendments is based on the limitations of original claim 1 and on the disclosure in the specification at page 15, line 15 to page 16, line 26 and Fig. 3. As discussed during the personal interview of September 13, 2007 the material pieces 1 are securely fixed within a casing 22. As set forth in the specification, peripheral portions 24, 26 of a top plate 25 and bottom plate 23 are welded to the casing 22. See page 16, lines 2-3 and 13-14. By securing the side cover, bottom plate 23 and top plate 25, movement of the material pieces is hindered so that the arrangement is retained. See page 16, lines 20-23. Further, the bottom plates 23 and top plates 25 of the casing have through holes (openings) formed therein. See page 15, line 28 to page 16, line 1. Wherefore, applicants have amended claim 11 in part to include the feature of the invention of the casing securely fixing the material pieces in an arrangement and said casing having openings in a top plate and a bottom plate corresponding to holes of the material pieces. The remaining amendments place the claims in dependent form to claim 11 and provide for proper antecedent basis.

Amendment
Application No. 10/500,042
Attorney Docket No. 042449

Applicants' Response to the Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 2 and 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mortus 3747656. Mortus is a patent directed to a locknut design. The Office maintains that an arrangement of locknuts, such as for sale in a box, would meet the limitations of the claim. In response thereto, applicants have amended claim 11 as detailed above. Applicants respectfully submit that Mortus does not teach each and every limitation of the amended claims. As discussed during the personal interview of September 13, 2007, Mortus does not teach the features of amended claim 11. Locknuts in a box do not correspond to a casing securely fixed with top plates and bottom plates having openings therein within a fluid processing device. Amended claim 11 is specifically limited to a fluid processing device which is not taught or suggested by Mortus.

Wherefore, applicants respectfully submit that based on the amendments to claim 11 as set forth above, the present invention is not obvious in light of Mortus.

Claim 1 and 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Shearer (U.S. Patent No. 3,424,437) as previously cited.¹ Shearer is directed to an apparatus for mixing viscous fluids. Shearer describes a plurality of transverse rows of ducts or short conduit sections 12 occupying substantially an entire cross-sectional area of a pipeline 11. See Fig. 1 and Col. 2, lines 45-70. JP '776 describes a honeycomb structure for purifying water for drinking.

¹ JP '776 is also relied upon by the rejection.

As discussed during the telephone interview of October 2, 2007, Shearer is specifically directed to the mixing of viscous fluids. As such, as described in Fig. 3 of Shearer the opening of the ducts 12 are arranged to be offset to allow for proper mixing. Contrary, as set forth in amended claim 11, the openings in the casing and the holes of the material pieces are not offset but are aligned. Further, as set forth at page 19, line 14 to page 20, line 27 and in Figs. 6 and 7, the casings containing the material pieces (i.e. field converters 21) are securely fixed to each other by welding. See page 20, lines 1-4.

Further, the device of JP'776 is specifically designed to be deposited in water to be circulated and aerated for a predetermined time to allow the quartz therein to dissolve into the water. See Abstract. Hence, the device of JP '776 requires a significantly different structure from that of the double hexagonal shape required by amended claim 11 and requires that the device is stagnant in water to allow for the elution of minerals and microelements into the water.

The Office Action admits that there is no exact disclosure in Shearer or JP '776 to the shape of applicants' claimed invention. As such, the Office maintains that it would have been obvious for one of skill in the art to modify the shape and material and arrangement of the honeycomb elements of JP '776 to the shape and material of the claim "to provide a more stronger and compact arrangement." However there is no teaching or suggestion in the prior art which would lead the skilled artisan to believe that applicants' arrangement is "more stronger and compact." Still further, one of skill in the art would not place the honeycombed device of JP '776 in place of the ducts of Shearer. In regard to the teachings of Shearer, the viscous liquid

Amendment
Application No. 10/500,042
Attorney Docket No. 042449

would not be mixed properly by the honeycomb arrangement of JP '776, and in regard to JP '776 the quartz poropyry would not elute into the water if incorporated into the device of Shearer. As such, there is no teaching or motivation to make the arrangement as claimed by applicants. Wherefore, the combination of Shearer and JP '776 does not teach all the features of the presently claimed invention, and therefore one of skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of the references to derive the current invention.

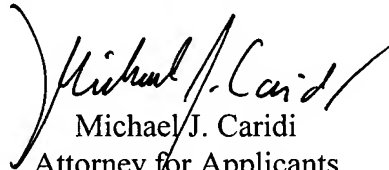
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Amendment
Application No. 10/500,042
Attorney Docket No. 042449

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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